

Environmental Board Minutes, August 9th, 2017

Meeting called to order at 6:57pm.

Members Present: Chair William Beck, Jerry Kroehn, Kathy Fiebig, Dave Solberg, Bill Strong, Student Advisory Member Owen Gwyn, Secretary Tim Winslow, and Assistant City Engineer Jamie Harmon

Excused Members: Vice Chair Michael Sergeant, Martha Dahlinger, Deirdre Nieves

Guests: Kathleen Hoyle, Director, Department of Parks, Recreation, Senior Services, City of Portage; Devin Mackinder, Director, Information Technology and Marketing Communications Manager, City of Portage

David made a motion to approve the minutes, seconded by Kathy. Motion approved.

Introduction of Guests

Bill introduced our guests Kathleen Hoyle and Devin Mackinder. Kathleen Hoyle is the new Director for the Parks Department and Senior Services for the City of Portage. Our new student member Owen Gwyn is also in attendance. Devin has been to a few of the meetings with regard to other IT concerns that the board has had.

See, Click, Fix App

Kathleen Hoyle, Director, Department of Parks, Recreation, Senior Services, City of Portage

Devin Mackinder, Director, Information Technology and Marketing Communications Manager, City of Portage

She is here to discuss the See, Click, Fix app that the City of Portage uses. This app allows citizens to submit problems they see within the city limits. This app can be used to help submit some of our environmental problems with the city limits.

Devin discusses the background of the app and how it can be used to help map invasive species as an example within the city limits. The City runs reports every day to try and fix these issues within 24 hours. That would be difficult for invasive species since invasive species take a great deal of time to remediate and potentially remove. Thus, the invasive species problems would be acknowledged within 24 hours but not actually "fixed." Additionally, we would like to map the invasive species as specific as possible. The city has a GPS device that can be used to provide specific GPS coordinates of these invasive species.

You can get to the See, Click, Fix app online through the portagem.gov link. You can hover over the Quick Links link and see the "Report It" feature. Then you can click on the "Report It" link and report whatever issue you see. You can click on the issues and see if these issues have

been remediated or not.

The board will decide at a later time what to title the issue and what questions should be asked in the Report feature. Devin thinks the board can only ask two questions. There is also a description box and an ability to upload images as well.

You can sign up for an account to submit issues or report as a guest as well. You can also choose to share your report of an issue via twitter, facebook, or google. There is also a SeeClickFix app that you can download from the Play store and Apple store. Your phone might also have GPS capability that you can use to better pinpoint where some of these issues are.

The board will have to make decisions regarding what our responses will be with regard to invasive species and if the response will be different for different species, etc.

Update on Proposals

Bill provided an update on both proposals. Bill said that both proposals did a great job of grabbing the city's attention with regard to these issues. Our proposals though were a little bit out of kilt with how the city works. The City is working on a Land Management Proposal RFP and has put most of what the two project teams recommended into the RFP. The next step will be convincing the City Council that it is necessary to spend money on the land management plan. The land management plan will perform an evaluation of the parks in terms of environmental issues. The proposals in response to the RFP are due tomorrow. Then the city will have two weeks to choose a RFP bid. Anything over \$4k requires three bids and anything over \$20k will require an RFP. The proposals should contain some estimates regarding how much eradication efforts will cost for certain species in certain parks.

Jerry asks what groups are putting together proposals for the RFPs. At least eight or nine environmental-themed groups attended the pre-bid meeting.

Bill would like to get a team of four people to work with Kathleen and the Parks Department with regard to the land management proposal.

The Parks Department will look at many factors in deciding which proposal best meets the RFP. The Parks Department is also putting together their five-year open spaces plan for the city parks. Thus, this RFP may coincide with that effort as well.

There are some parks employees who are interested in invasive species and the board would be interested in helping train any employees who are willing to learn about invasives and help more with the invasives.

Monarch Butterfly Habitat

Lloyd Seyburn is interested in establishing a Monarch butterfly habitat and was looking into possibly submitting a grant application to do so. He learned that this project was not eligible

for the grant he was thinking of submitting, but he will keep in touch in the future about this project.

Announcements

Tim brought up that the deer exclosure at Bishop's Bog was broken into by deer. The Kalamazoo Nature Center is performing an analysis of the exclosures and will have a report of some sort at the end of the year.

Tim also will be doing a segment with the Public Media Network with regard to Purple Loosestrife beetles on either August 24th or 25th. He will also check on his beetles at this time at the various release locations.

Devin brought up the importance of the Portage Creek and how it used to be a world class trout stream and how it would be nice if it could get back to that status.

Jerry has copies of the citywide survey that is planned to go out at some time if anyone is interested in it.

Kathy makes a motion to adjourn, seconded by David. Motion approved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:06pm

/s/ Tim Winslow